

REMARKS

Claims 14 and 15 were rejected as being duplicative. Claim 15 has been canceled and therefore, the rejection is moot. Claims 1-20 were rejected as being anticipated by or as being obvious in view of Wu (US 5,336,457) or Topolkaraev (US 6,586,354). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The present claims require a monolayer film made from a blend of a biodegradable polymer and a water soluble polymer. This clarifying amendment does not require any further searching. Moreover, this amendment can and should be entered because it puts the claims in condition to be allowed.

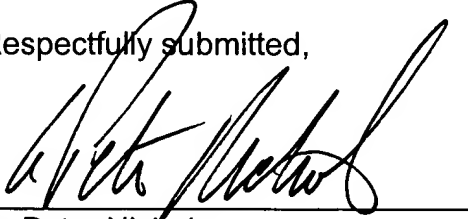
In contrast, Wu discloses a composite film such as that shown in Fig. 1, which contains a polyvinyl alcohol sandwiched between two layers of a polyolefin film. The composite film is formed by co-extruding, laminating the layers, or a combination of both (col. 4, lines 17-22). Neither co-extruding nor laminating teach or suggest a blended mixture of polymer formed into a monolayer film. Therefore, Wu cannot and does not anticipate or render obvious the present claims.

Similarly, Topolkaraev describes multi-microlayer films composed of a multi-microlayer assembly. Topolkaraev defines "multi-microlayer" means a film having a plurality of alternating layers (see col. 3, lines 60-65). As pointed out above, the present film is a single layer and there are no alternating layers. Consequently, Topolkaraev cannot and does not anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed film.

Neither Wu nor Topolkaraev, do not teach or suggest each and every feature of the present claims. In short, a plurality of layers cannot teach or suggest a monolayer film that includes a blended mixture of polymers.

Applicants believe the present claims are allowable and respectfully request allowance of the application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4276 to resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Peter Nichols', written over a horizontal line.

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